

Senate Resolution 372

By: Senators Tippins of the 37th, Shafer of the 48th and Thompson of the 14th

A RESOLUTION

1 Commending Dr. M.H. Mason, Jr., Elementary School for being a 2015 Georgia Green
2 Ribbon School and for its great work in environmental education and sustainability; and for
3 other purposes.

4 WHEREAS, the aim of United States Department of Education Green Ribbon Schools is to
5 inspire schools, districts, and institutions of higher education to strive for 21st century
6 excellence by highlighting exemplary practices and resources that all can employ; and

7 WHEREAS, the Green Ribbon award recognizes schools, districts, and institutions of higher
8 education that reduce environmental impact and costs; improve the health and wellness of
9 schools, students, and staff; and provide environmental education which teaches many
10 disciplines and is especially good at effectively incorporating STEM, civic skills, and green
11 career pathways. The combined achievement in all three of these areas serves as the basis
12 for recognition; and

13 WHEREAS, Dr. M.H. Mason, Jr., Elementary School was one of two Georgia schools
14 named a Georgia Green Ribbon School for the year 2015; and

15 WHEREAS, it is ENERGYSTAR certified and employs best practices in operations
16 management, ensuring that buildings, grounds, and athletic facilities are safe, energy
17 efficient, and well maintained; and

18 WHEREAS, ninety-six percent of the students are helping to improve air quality by riding
19 the bus, riding a bike, or walking to school; and the school's No Idling program asks bus
20 engines and car engines to be turned off while not in motion; and

21 WHEREAS, over 30 percent of Mason's grounds are devoted to outdoor learning areas,
22 which include trails, pollinator gardens, vegetable gardens, and native plantings maintained

23 by the students; and 100 percent of Mason's landscaping is considered water efficient and
24 regionally appropriate; and

25 WHEREAS, Mason partners with nonprofits, Gwinnett Clean & Beautiful and the Clean Air
26 Campaign, and has a multidisciplinary team whose focus is waste reduction and recycling,
27 air quality, energy conservation, water conservation, and greenspace preservation; and

28 WHEREAS, Mason's environmental efforts have been years in the making and require
29 dedication and meaningful collaboration between teachers, students, parents, leaders, and
30 community partners; and it is in this way that Mason models environmental stewardship for
31 students to provide a sustainable community for our future generations.

32 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE that the members of this body
33 commend Dr. M.H. Mason, Jr., Elementary School for being a 2015 Georgia Green Ribbon
34 School and recognize its commitment to inspiring and educating tomorrow's leaders and
35 preserving the natural beauty of this state.

36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Senate is authorized and directed
37 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to Dr. M.H. Mason,
38 Jr., Elementary School.